

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 3/3 gets taste of desert heat

**Sgt. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARINE CORPS BASE TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Marines from Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, can tell you a lot about desert heat, deployments, sacrifices and combat.

These Marines recently returned to Hawaii from Afghanistan after completing a deployment during which they supported Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently, they are training in Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif., to



prepare for another deployment — this time to Iraq where they will support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The warriors from “America’s Battalion” came to Twentynine Palms on Nov. 22. OEF veterans are getting reacquainted with the desert heat and Marines who have never been to the desert are getting an idea of what the deserts of Iraq have in store for them.

“This training is important and the Marines know it,” said Sgt. Andy Darnell, 25, and a team leader with Weapons Company, 3/3. “The Marines know that when we get out to Iraq, we are not training then. We are doing real-world

missions,” said the Wellsville, Kan. native, “And by them coming to the desert and experiencing desert terrain, they get a chance to see what they are going to be up against when we get out there.”

While the Marines from Weapons Company, adjust to the desert heat, they will be kicking up some desert sand as they practice patrolling in desert a climate and participate in combined-arms exercises that incorporate the use of mortars, fixed- and rotary-wing air support, and tanks.

The Marines are not only preparing themselves for Operations Iraqi



Sgt. Monroe F. Seigle

Marines From Weapons Company, 3/3, utilize the wide open desert in Twentynine Palms to conduct patrolling exercises, just like they will in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

See 3/3, A-6

## Remembering the ‘Day of Infamy’



Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson

Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Navy Capt. Robert Adrion, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, return a salute from representatives of the Navy and Marine Corps during a Wreath-Laying Ceremony, Wednesday. The Kaneohe Klipper Association provided the wreath that was presented during the memorial ceremony that followed morning colors. The joint Navy and Marine Corps ceremony commemorated events that occurred on this base 64 years ago when Japanese Imperial Navy aircraft attacked the Island of Oahu, killing 18 Sailors and one civilian contractor at what was then Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay. Chief Petty Officer John W. Finn, an ordnanceman assigned to Patrol Squadron 14, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on Dec. 7, 1941. The Kaneohe Klipper Association includes service members who have served at Kaneohe Bay, and their extended family members.

## 1/3 gets together to celebrate family

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
*Combat Correspondent*



Photo Courtesy of Sheryl Shearer

A family member of a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine contemplates what he wants for Christmas as he sits on Santa's lap.

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWES, WAIMANALO, Hawaii** — The Lava Dogs of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, did their best Sister Sledge impression, Friday, during a gathering at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo. But this was no “American Idol” tryout or karaoke contest with off-key renditions of the 1970s hit song, “We are family.”

Instead, the battalion maintained that spirit of togetherness by holding a “Family Day” get-together at the beach, where 1/3 Marines, spouses and children spent an afternoon just enjoying one another's company.

“This was one last chance for the 1/3 family to get together before the Marines go on block leave and then deploy for Afghanistan,” said one of the event's organizers, Capt. Anthony Fiacco, a forward air controller with 1/3 and native of Grafton, Mass. “Events like this tighten the already strong bonds we all feel for one another as part of the Lava Dog family.”

“It's nice for the whole battalion to get together with their families and reconnect or make new connections,” added Navy Lt. Brian Shearer, 1/3 battalion chaplain and a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., who brought his wife Sheryl along with daughters Hannah, 8, Deborah, 6, and Hadassah, 1, to the event. “The families of 1/3 know they can count on one another for support,” said Shearer, a former Marine rifleman who served in the Corps from 1982 to 1986.

Throughout the day, children were treated to

visits from Santa Claus, entertained by balloon makers who created hats and animals out of balloons, witnessed a sand castle-building contest, took turns in a “bouncy house,” and numerous other activities. For the adults, it was a chance to get together and sample all the hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, potato salad, coleslaw and chicken they could eat. There was also a static display that served the purpose of showing 1/3 family members some of the equipment the Marines use.

“We brought a Mark 19, a 240 Golf, a .50 cal and an 81 mike mike (81 millimeter mortar) weapons system out,” said Lance Cpl. Blake Campbell, a 1/3 mortarman assigned to Weapons Company. “The families really enjoyed getting a chance to see all the different weapons we use,” admitted the Lynchburg, Va., native.

According to 1/3 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. James Bierman, the strong sense of family inclusion in 1/3 is made possible through events such as this and through the efforts of Key Volunteers.

“A big factor behind the level of participation and enthusiasm of our families has been the efforts of the Key Volunteers,” remarked Bierman, a Virginia native. “We have 30 wives who volunteer their time and spare no effort to support the families of 1/3. They've really taken the lead and do an outstanding job. Today was a perfect example of that.”

That sentiment seemed to be confirmed by Kianna Myers, 6, the daughter of Staff Sgt. Philip Myers, 1/3's administrative chief and a native of Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

See FAMILY, A-6

## MITT to train Iraqi soldiers

**Sgt. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARINE CORPS BASE TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Marines from the Military Iraqi Transition Team with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are scheduled to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, 3/3 will teach Iraqi Infantry Battalions skills necessary to conduct military operations on their own.

Currently, 3/3 Marines are readying themselves for the deployment to Iraq by honing their infantry skills in the desert at Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif.

MITT, which consists of 11 Marines from various military occupational specialties, will be teaching Iraqi forces techniques similar to those the Marines use.

According to Capt. Quinten Jones, 32, from Memphis, Tenn., and an assistant team chief with MITT, 3/3, their goal is to train the Iraqi soldiers the skills required for them to be able conduct operations in their country, without the assistance of the Marines.

When the Marines from MITT deploy to Iraq, they will be living, eating and sleeping with the Iraqi soldiers, while teaching them as many infantry skills as they can during the seven-month deployment.

Jones said one of the most difficult hurdles to overcome is the fact that they must teach the soldiers fighting skills as well as overcome language barriers and cultural differences.

“Iraqi civilians are our primary translators while in Iraq,” said Jones. “They have no problems translating what we tell the troops, but the precise instructions can still get lost in translation.”

According to Jones, more than 75 percent of the Iraqi troops are new recruits. Additionally, the MITT team's first conquest when they initially arrive in Iraq is to assess the skill level of the Iraqi troops and build upon their current skills.

“Some of the soldiers from the old regime are still serving, but there is very little concern about them wanting to support Saddam,” said Jones. “They were just serving to make a living and have little or no loyalty to Saddam and his regime.”

As the deployment date nears, the Marines from MITT are being challenged with the desert heat as they practice calling for artillery support and air strikes, while sharpening marksmanship skills and

See MITT, A-5



NEWS BRIEFS

Liberty Bus Cancellation

There will be no Waikiki Liberty Bus shuttle service during the weekend of Dec. 23 and 24. Shuttle service will resume on the weekend of Dec. 30.

For questions regarding the Liberty Bus, or the schedule, contact Lee Yamamoto, Base Facilities, at 257-2171, ext. 222.

Injured Marines invited to Christmas Dinner

New Hope Christian Fellowship would like to thank service members for serving their country in time of war and thank them for their great sacrifices. New Hope invites service members who are recovering from injuries and those who have been discharged due to their injuries from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, to a full Christmas dinner on Dec.19 at New Hope Christian Fellowship at 290 Sand Island Access Road. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. and will feature live music, a famous piano soloist, hula dancing, raffle and a Christmas dinner.

This invitation is open to the first 200 people who R.S.V.P. 988-2733, Formal invitations and maps will be sent.

Drive Safe Reminder from PMO

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has experienced a large number of motor vehicle accidents involving drivers who are backing out of their spaces and driveways. The root cause for these accidents is inattention to driving.

The Military Police Department is asking drivers to make an extra effort to check behind their vehicle for vehicles and pedestrians before backing up. As per the regulations, when driving government vehicles, sound the horn before backing to warn any nearby vehicles.

Try to use all the available driveway space at your quarters before parking along the roadway. If you must park in the roadway, park so that vehicles backing from adjacent driveways cannot hit your vehicle. Drive safely during the holiday season.

Construction Project Continues

Construction on the Marine Mart parking lot entrance and exit from G Street and the H-3 outbound exit began Monday and should be completed by Friday, depending on the weather.

For the duration of this construction project, the speed limit will be reduced and one lane will be closed to provide a buffer zone between vehicular traffic and the construction workers. Drive safely, and slow down at all construction zones.

Post Office Extends Hours

The Base Post Office will have extended hours through Dec. 23 for the holiday season. The Base Post Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Base Post Office will be open Dec. 24 for parcel pickup only.

For more information, contact the Base Post Office at 257-2008.

MMEA Returns in December

The Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Branch from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, Va., will conduct briefings at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday at the Base Theater and at Camp H.M. Smith on Tuesday.

About 25 monitors representing more than 100 military occupational specialties will be available. Appointments are on a first-come basis and will be kept to 10 to 15 minutes to allow for maximum participation.

Marines should contact their unit Career Retention Specialist for additional information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

## Hawaii MARINE

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New traumatic injury insurance available

Press Release

United States Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced, Nov. 30, the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program as enacted by section 1032 of Public Law 109-13.

The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

On Dec. 1, all members eligible for SGLI will become insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they decline SGLI coverage. A flat monthly premium of \$1 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member has elected, effective as of Dec. 1.

TSGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or disability benefits provided by the Department of Defense. It is an insurance product similar to commercial dismemberment policies.

TSGLI provides money for a loss due to a specific traumatic event while disability compensation is intended to provide ongoing financial support to make up for the loss in income-earning potential due to service-connected injuries.

The retroactive provision of PL 109-13 provides that any service member, who suffers a qualifying loss between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Department of Defense developed

this program in close coordination with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will closely monitor implementation with the services and make necessary adjustments if required.

For more information, service members should contact their individual service.

Points of contact for service members are: Jeanette Mendy at (800) 237-1336 or tsgli@hoffman.army.mil for Army; Thomas Perry at (210) 565-3310 or 2410 or thomas.perry@randolph.af.mil for Air Force; MCPO Ralph Gallagher at (800) 368-3202 or ralph.gallagher@navy.mil for Navy; Lt. Col. Will Goldschmidt at (703) 432-9277 or t-sgli@usmc.mil for Marine Corps; Lt. Terrence Walsh at (202) 267-1648 or twalsh@comdt.uscg.mil for Coast Guard; and Lt. Cdr. Tiffany Edmonds at (301) 594-2963 or tedmonds@psc.gov for the U.S. Public Health Service.

Postal rates to increase

Press Release

Unites States Postal Service

WASHINGTON — The Governors of the U.S. Postal Service voted to accept the Postal Rate Commission's recommendations to increase most postal rates and fees by approximately 5.4 percent across-the-board to take effect Jan. 8, 2006.

This rate increase — the first since 2002 — is needed to fulfill the requirement of a federal law passed in 2003. That law requires the Postal Service to establish a \$3.1 billion escrow account, with use of the funds to be determined by Congress at a later date. Without this federal mandate, it would not have been necessary to raise rates in 2006.

Among the rate adjustments, the single-piece rate for first-class mail will increase from 37 cents to 39 cents, and the postcard rate will increase by one cent to 24 cents.

"The governors take this

New Postal Rates, Effective Jan. 8, 2006

Item/Service Changed	New	Old
First-Class Letter (1 oz.)	39¢	37¢
First-Class Letter (2 oz.)	63¢	60¢
Postcard	24¢	23¢
Priority Mail (1 lb.)	\$4.05	\$3.85
Express Mail (1/2 lb)	\$14.40	\$13.65
Express Mail (2 lb)	\$18.80	\$17.75
Certified Mail	\$2.40	\$2.30
Delivery Confirmation (Priority)	50¢	45¢
Delivery Confirmation (First Class Parcels)	60¢	55¢
Return Receipt (Original Signature)	\$1.85	\$1.75
Return Receipt (Electronic)	\$1.35	\$1.30
Money Orders (up to \$500)	95¢	90¢


action mindful of our obligation to assure the financial integrity of the nation's postal system," said Jim Miller, chairman of the Postal Service's Board of Governors. "These increases will allow the Postal Service to meet the obligation established by Congress to place funds in escrow in 2006."

The commission's recommended decision came after a proceeding in which most of the participants signed a settlement agreement adopting the

Postal Service's uniform, across-the-board increase proposals. The settlement shortened to six months the commission's administrative review, which normally takes 10 months.

International rates, which are determined separately from domestic prices, will be adjusted to coincide with the domestic rate changes. International rates have not been adjusted since January 2001.

See POSTAL, A-5




**BROUGHTON**

### HMH-363 Change of Command


Lt. Col. Allen D. Broughton will relieve Lt. Col. Paul A. Fortunato as commanding officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, in a ceremony to be held Friday at 1 p.m. between hangars 101 and 102.

Fortunato will stay aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii for his next assignment with Marine Aircraft Group 24.

Broughton came to K-Bay from an assignment at Headquarters Marine Corps, Quantico, Va.



**FORTUNATO**




**CAMACHO**

### MAG-24 Post and Relief

Sgt. Maj. Juan G. Camacho Jr. will be replacing Sgt. Maj. Emmanuel Magos as sergeant major for Marine Aircraft Group 24 in a post and relief ceremony today at 2 p.m. on the flight line between hangars 101 and 102.

Magos is retiring after 26 years of service in the Corps and will be residing in Murrieta, Calif.


Camacho a native of Santa Rita, Guam, is coming from Marine Heavy Helicopter 363, one of MAG-24's squadrons.



**MAGOS**

## Weekend weather outlook

### Today




**Day** — partly cloudy conditions with a few rain showers throughout day; easterly winds at 10 to 12 mph

**Night** — partly cloudy skies throughout the night; rain showers overnight and into the early morning; easterly winds at 8 to 12 mph

**High — 81**  
**Low — 75**

### Saturday




**Day** — partly cloudy skies with few rain showers; easterly winds at 12 to 14 mph

**Night** — partly cloudy skies; easterly winds at 8 to 12 mph

**High — 81**  
**Low — 75**

### Sunday



**Day** — partly cloudy skies; easterly winds at 10 to 12 mph

**Night** — partly cloudy skies throughout the night with a few rain; easterly winds at 8 to 12 mph

**High — 82**  
**Low — 75**



Search

and rescue

HSL-37 Sailors evacuate injured personnel during training exercise

Story and Photos By  
**Pfc. Edward C. deBree**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Imagine flying around in a helicopter to conduct operations, then having it come under enemy fire and being shot down. After checking the condition of your crew, you tend to the injured only to discover that some need to be evacuated to a hospital where they can get needed medical attention. Who will be there to evacuate personnel and save their lives?

To better prepare them to respond to this type of a scenario, squadron members assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 conducted a Search and Rescue exercise, Monday, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

“We’re practicing over-land Search and Rescue training today,” said Chief Petty Officer James M. Rogers, tactics leading chief petty officer, Search and Rescue, HSL-37. “Primarily we’re practicing procedures for injured personnel for a search and rescue evaluation this week.”

The search and rescue evaluation began Tuesday, and tested the Sailors on their knowledge of procedures, training, and physical strength. “First, there is a 40-question closed-book test, then they will evaluate our training records, and then test our physical fitness,” said Rogers. “Then they will make a mock scenario, which we will conduct over land and water.”

During the exercise, HSL-37 squadron helicopters landed in a field and squadron members located the downed personnel, who were role played by two Sailors. After locating the personnel, the two Search and Rescue squadron members checked the injured Sailors’ vital signs.

After determining that one of the victims had died, they concentrated on the injured Sailor and proceeded to perform first aid on him. After performing first aid, the Sailors strapped the wounded onto a stretcher and carried him to the pickup zone. There, a SH-60B Seahawk helicopter airlifted the injured Sailor to safety.

“The first time we did it, we made a few mistakes but, overall, we did great,” said Rogers. “One thing we really noticed was how hard communication between the Sailors on the ground and the ones in the helicopter was. It was harder because

of the noise from the helicopter overhead and all the debris flying around. We had to kind of rely on hand signals.”

The 41-year-old Baytown, Texas native said that the unit is prepared for their evaluation but there still will be difficult parts to it.

“I think the more difficult things about these evaluations is knowing the exact procedures, step by step, because they are constantly changing Search and Rescue procedures,” said Rogers. “In fact, they just changed the primary instructions and procedures last month, and now we’re getting tested on them, but I still have confidence that we’ll do fine.”

Another portion of the evaluation is physical fitness. During this part, squadron members will run with all their equipment on, do pull-ups, carry 50-pound dumbbells for 100 yards, hike one mile with all their gear, and swim 500 meters with all equipment — then grab a survivor from the water and swim an additional 400 meters.

“The squadron gets few opportunities to do things like this,” said Rogers. “But it only better prepares us, in case an emergency should come up.”



Petty Officers Michael Todd (left) and Timothy Yaukey carry a simulated injured Sailor to the spot where he is to be airlifted to safety. Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 squadron members were going through a Search and Rescue scenario, Monday, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Squadron members conducted the training in order to prepare them for an upcoming evaluation.



A Sailor assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 ties down a simulated injured victim to a stretcher during a Search and Rescue training exercise.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Yaukey, Search and Rescue swimmer for Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37, calls in the status of a victim during a Search and Rescue training exercise, Monday, aboard K-Bay.



During a Search and Rescue training exercise, members from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 await the arrival of a SH-60B Seahawk helicopter that will take an injured Sailor to a hospital.



# On the skyline ... with 1/3 by Sgt. Joe Lindsay

On the Skyline is a weekly column written by Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Combat Correspondent Sgt. Joe Lindsay. Lindsay has recently returned to K-Bay with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine

Regiment, from California, where they trained to prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## College football player hangs up helmet for stethoscope

It is often said that nothing is given to a Marine — it is figuratively beat into the psyche of every young man and woman who steps on the yellow footprints at the recruit depots in San Diego or Parris Island, S.C., that they are going to have to earn the title “Marine.”

The eagle, globe and anchor symbol is the most coveted emblem signifying the transformation from civilian to Marine. It doesn’t come easy. Only individuals who have survived the trial by fire in boot camp or Officer Candidates School rate to wear this symbol of the Corps on their uniform.

But there is also a group of Sailors considered so vital to the Marine Corps mission, and so ingrained in Marine Corps history on the battlefield, that they too are authorized to don the eagle, globe and anchor.

These Sailors are called corpsmen, and they are very often the only difference between life and death for a Marine wounded on the battlefield.

“Corpsmen take care of Marines,” said Lance Cpl. Tyler Weed, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, administrative clerk and Iraq veteran who witnessed the bravery of hospital corpsmen firsthand in the battle for Fallujah. “They are out there on the front lines with the Marines, putting their lives on the line to save us, if we get shot up. You’d be hard pressed to find a Marine who has served in battle who doesn’t have the highest respect for corpsmen.”

Weed, a Tacoma, Wash., native, said he has the utmost respect for all corpsmen, but noted that Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Gorman stands out above the rest — literally.

Gorman was recently promoted to his present rank through the Navy’s Combat Meritorious Advancement Program as a result of his exemplary service with 1/3 on their last combat deployment.

He also stands 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighs in the neighborhood of 250 pounds, but carries the weight more like a gladiator than the defensive lineman he was during an All-American high school football career that led to a scholarship to the University of Arizona in Tucson, where Gorman played from 1988 to ‘91.

Today, Gorman said he has no regrets about joining the Navy or the long road that led him there, even though many of his teammates at Arizona and players he knew from other teams went on to play in the NFL.

“We moved 11 different times throughout the country, when I was a kid — as a result of my father’s job at IBM,” explained Gorman, who was born in Queens, N.Y., and attended high school for three years in Southern California before moving once again, this time to New Jersey.

“The hardest move was just before my senior year in high school. In California, I was starting to get recruited by some big name schools. We finished the year undefeated, got a lot of media attention, and played all our games on Friday nights in front of 1,300 screaming fans. In New Jersey, we played on Saturday mornings in front of a couple hundred people, mostly just family and friends.”

Despite the change in scenery, Gorman didn’t fall off the radar with the college football scouts and received a visit from Nebraska’s legendary football coach, Tom Osborne, in addition to being courted by other big-name programs such as Oklahoma, USC, Florida and Florida State.

In the end, Gorman signed a letter of intent to play foot-



Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Gorman, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hospital corpsman from Tucson, Ariz., takes the blood pressure of a fellow Sailor aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Gorman was recently promoted to his present rank through the Navy’s Combat Meritorious Advancement Program as a result of his exemplary service with 1/3 on their last combat deployment.

ball at Arizona on a full-ride athletic scholarship. During his collegiate career, Gorman played in the Copper Bowl and the Aloha Bowl. A photograph of him raising his helmet in jubilation after he and his fellow Wildcats won a

game has become part of Arizona football lore. The photo hangs in the lobby of Tucson’s Embassy Suites Hotel, flanked on both sides by two other illustrious University of Arizona athletes, former NBA All-Star Sean Elliott and for-



mer MLB All-Star and gold-glove winner Kenny Lofton.

“It’s crazy, but I really can’t remember what game that photo was taken at,” admitted Gorman. “It was just one of those surreal moments that got captured in time.”

Gorman’s football career ended before he had a chance to test the NFL’s waters, when he was involved in a car accident that nearly took his and the lives of three of his friends.

“It was a miracle none of us got killed,” said Gorman, reflecting on that summer night nearly 15 years ago. “After the crash, I kind of had an epiphany of sorts, and decided I needed to find other things in my life besides football.”

Shortly thereafter, Gorman left school just a few credits shy of his degree in exercise and sports science and embarked on an entrepreneurial career that saw him buy, manage and sell nightclubs all over the country.

“I started moving around a lot, again,” commented Gorman, who mentioned that he still considers Tucson his adopted home, but now subscribes more to the philosophy that home is wherever you hang your hat.

“I got married to Patti — we’ve been married almost 12 years now, and we have a son, Zakkary, 11. We just started investing in and managing all these different clubs, first in Tucson, then in Georgia, then Texas and finally Virginia. After six or seven years of that, I just decided that I’d had enough of the business. I’d always sort of talked about joining the military, and one day I had some Navy brochures laying around that I was looking through. Patti just

See GORMAN, A-6



# Lava Dogs stay sharp before deployment

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
*Combat Correspondent*

After spending six weeks conducting pre-deployment training exercises at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., the Lava Dogs of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, didn't waste any time building on the skills they learned in California upon their return in late October to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The same was true for 1/3's Distributed Operations Platoon, which arrived back in K-Bay at approximately the same time as their fellow Lava Dogs, after having spent the better part of four months training at Fort Hunter Liggett in Jolon, Calif., in preparation for 1/3's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan is support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The Distributed Operations Platoon, along with the entire battalion, hit the ground running as soon as we got back from California, and it's been nonstop sustainment training ever since," said Staff Sgt. Robert Lytle, infantry platoon sergeant, Distributed Operations Platoon, 1/3. "We PT (physical training) the Marines at least two hours a day; we push them to their limits on humps (forced marches); we remediate, sustain and improve on anything you can possibly imagine that has to do with being a grunt (infantry Marine), and then we do it all over again."

That training regiment didn't slack off any on Tuesday, as 1/3 completed a 20-mile hump aboard the base, its third such grueling hump since returning to Hawaii from California.

"Fifteen miles, 17 miles, 20 miles — it doesn't matter," said Pfc. John Beckley, a 1/3 assaultman with Weapons Company and a native of San Antonio, when discussing the hiking portion of 1/3's sustainment package. "We have to be in the best physical shape possible for Afghanistan. All of us understand why the colonel (1/3 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. James Bierman) has been pushing us so hard. We know it's for our own good. We're going to war, and we have



Photo Courtesy of Pfc. Emmanuel Dominguez

**Lance Cpl. Smith, #rd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, takes part in a sustainment training evolution Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at Kahuku Training Area on the northern part of Oahu.**

prepared ourselves through our training — both physically and mentally. Morale is high. We are strong. We are sharp and we are ready."

In addition to 1/3's arduous physical training regime and hike program, the battalion has also been conducting training exercises aboard Marine Corps Training Area Bellows near Waimanalo, as well as the Kahuku Training Area on the northern part of Oahu.

"Training in the Kahukus was miserable," said Lance Cpl Brady Phelps, a 1/3 rifleman and native of Portland, Ore., who serves as the designated marksman for Charlie Company, 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad. "By miserable, I mean it was good training. You have to understand that when we are training out there, we aren't really

sleeping. We're wet; we're muddy; we're tired. The mosquitoes are eating us alive and, basically, any grunt will tell you — it sucks. But the more it sucks the tougher we become. If you train to be miserable, then when you go to combat and you're really miserable, then you'll be able to deal with it that much better. That's why when we train, the more miserable it is, the better."

Phelps is speaking from experience. Afghanistan will mark his second combat deployment. This time last year, he was in Fallujah, Iraq, in one of the fiercest battles of the war. Other 1/3 Marines who were also there spoke in a similar vein regarding the recent training evolution in the Kahukus, which took

place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

"Kahukus was good sustainment training," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Ehrmann, a 1/3 rifleman and Iraq veteran from Racine, Wis., currently serving as a squad leader in Charlie Company's Headquarters Company. "We have a responsibility not to neglect the skills we worked so hard to obtain in California."

According to Lance Cpl. Daniel Timmons, a 1/3 rifleman with Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon, that responsibility is one the Lava Dogs do not take lightly.

"We're going to a very dangerous part of the world," explained the Acworth, Ga., native. "We don't know if all of us are going to make it back. You don't like to say stuff like that — but that's the reality. I truly believe that all this training and hard work is going to save lives in the long run."

Which is exactly why the Marines worked on such a wide range of skills throughout the sustainment-training package, and specifically during the recent three-day Kahukus evolution, noted Lytle.

"You name it, and we probably did it — helicopter operations; securing LZs (landing zones); day and night patrols; day and night land nav (navigation); IA (immediate action) drills; claymores; call for fire; tactics; maneuvers; defensive positions; ambushes — I could go on and on," remarked Lytle, an Iraq veteran from Asheville, N.C. "Infantry skills are perishable skills. If you don't use it, you lose it. That's why all this constant training has been so important. Lives are riding on how hard we work during sustainment training. My mission is to make sure these Marines understand that."

It seems clear that Lytle has accomplished his mission.

"Nobody backed off the intensity level during sustainment training," said Cpl. Jacob Newman, a 1/3 rifleman and squad leader for Distributed Operations Platoon's 3rd Squad. "Sustainment training is not punishment. It's about keeping everything sharp," admitted the Lakeview, Mich., native.

*See 1/3, A-6*

## MITT, From A-1

practice providing emergency medical care.

"This is going to be the United State's bid for success — by using these advisor teams," said Staff Sgt. Freddy Williams, 30, from Crestview, Fla., and a communications chief for MITT. "The most rewarding aspect of these missions will be when we can withdraw our troops from Iraqi knowing the Iraqi Army can handle doing operations in their own country."

## POSTAL, From A-2

Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 143 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation.

The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world.

The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume — some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year — and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its Web site, [usps.com](http://usps.com), attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.



3/3, From A-1

Freedom, they are also preparing their families for another deployment.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Petrone, 20, a forward observer with Weapons Company, and a native of Burrillville, R.I., missed the birth of his son, Christian, May 1, while he was in Afghanistan.

“Missing my son’s birth was one of the toughest things I had to go through,” said Petrone. “My wife knows this is not a 9 to 5 job, and someone has to do it. I want to be with them, but I am ultimately protecting them, and all the other mothers and fathers out there, from terrorist operations.”

Many of the Marines thought about their families during Thanksgiving, but it did not dampen their spirits to eat Meals, Ready to Eat, instead of the traditional Thanksgiving turkey. Instead, the Marines focused on bettering themselves before they deploy to Iraq.

“I have to keep it fresh in the Marines’ minds that they have to take care of one another and be able to rely on one another,” said Lance Cpl. Phillip Shockley, 22, gunner, Weapons Company, and a native of Salisbury, Md. “There are times when we can’t be with our families and those times often fall on birthdays and holidays. We rely on each other during those times, and we have to trust and communicate with each other — that is what is going to bring us back home to our families, and that is our ultimate goal.”

FAMILY, From A-1

“I had the best, best time,” said Kianna, as her mother, Sandra, sat close by, smiling. “I took a picture with Santa. I played in the jumpy house and went down the water-slide. I played with my friends. I almost ate all my food. It was so much fun.”



Photo Courtesy of Sheryl Shearer

A balloon artist poses with a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, family member during the Lava Dog's family picnic, Friday, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo.

According to Sandra, events such as 1/3’s Family Day are extremely important.

“When I first came to Hawaii I didn’t know anyone,” said the native of Maputo, Mozambique. “1/3 has been the best command I’ve ever been associated with. We’ve been a lot of places throughout my husband’s Marine Corps career, but nobody looks out for the families like 1/3. I’m so thankful to be a part of the Lava Dog family.”

Patti Gorman, wife of Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Gorman, a 1/3 hospital corpsman from Tucson, Ariz., said she completely agreed.

“1/3, the Key Volunteers, the command, everyone in the battalion — they let you know that when your husband is in 1/3, that you, as a wife, are also in 1/3 — that you matter, too,” remarked Patti, a native of Williamsburg, Va. “When my husband deployed to Iraq last year, I can’t tell you how much all that support meant to me. You’re never alone in 1/3. Everyone looks out for each other. There is a great support network in 1/3, and it means the world to the families.”

GORMAN, From A-4

came up to me and said, ‘Either do it, or don’t do it. Just go down and join right now, or put that stuff away forever.’ So, I went down and joined.”

Nearly 30 at the time, Gorman was one of the oldest recruits at basic training, but was unfazed.

“I’ve always been one to look ahead, not behind,” commented Gorman. “I never got caught up in that, ‘If I’d only joined 10 years earlier, I’d be so much further along in my career right now,’ type mindset that a lot of older Sailors get trapped in. I just said to myself, ‘This is where I’m at now, so make the best of it.’”

And make the best of it he did.

Just five years into his career, Gorman is now holding a rank that often takes longer for the average Sailor to attain.

“I served with HM1 (petty officer first class, hospital corpsman) Gorman in Iraq,” said Navy Lt. Aric Aghayan, 1/3 battalion surgeon and a native of Overland Park, Kan. “His experience, leadership and maturity was a great asset to us over there and continues to be here. He’s an excellent corpsman. You don’t need to look any farther than his promotion through the Combat Meritorious Advancement Program to see that.”

“Plus, he’s one big dude,” added Aghayan, jokingly. “So nobody messes with us.”

According to Petty Officer 3rd Class Darian “Doc” Holiday, a 1/3 hospital corpsman and Iraq veteran, Gorman is one of the most reliable and hardworking corpsmen he has ever seen.

“If he’s not the person to go to, I wouldn’t know who else would be,” admitted the Chinle, Ariz. native. “HM1 Gorman is extremely dependable and can be counted on to be there for the Marines. But he’s also there for the other corpsmen, too, when we need advice.”

According to Gorman, when it comes to giving advice, nobody gives it better than his wife, Patti.

“She’s got that ‘tough love’ thing going on,” chuckled Gorman. “I’m glad for it though. She has supported me throughout our marriage and never more so than during the constant deployments I seem to make.”

Indeed, after receiving orders to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, from his previous duty station at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Gorman has spent most of his time deployed either aboard ship in Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Unit Deployment Program, or to Iraq. He is currently slated to deploy with 1/3 again on their upcoming combat deployment — this time to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I volunteered to go to Afghanistan, because taking care of these guys is what I love to do,” said Gorman. “The Marines in 1/3 are amazing. I saw guys get shot in Iraq and then just laugh about it afterwards. I’m talking, these Marines are crazy brave. I saw other Marines not let anyone know of their wounds for days so that they could stay with their men. And of course, I saw some Marines die. The level of courage all these Marines possess is hard to fathom sometimes. These men in 1/3 are the bravest of our generation, and wherever they go, I’m gonna go. I’m a corpsman by trade and a Lava Dog by heart.”

# Salutes

## Corporals Course

**Honor Graduate**  
Cpl Charles W. Lawson, Marine Corps Air Facility Class commander and highest PFT score

**2nd Place**  
Cpl Joseph E. Hallars, MCAF

**3rd Place**  
Cpl Thomas M. Tress, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363

**Gung Ho Award**  
Cpl Giovanni Dominguez, Headquarters Battalion

Units wanting to submit information for “Salutes” should send an e-mail to [editor@hawaiimarine.com](mailto:editor@hawaiimarine.com) or call 257-8836.